

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 MC-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-04
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 INRE-00 IGA-02 EB-07
TRSE-00 /053 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:PWLANDE:CF
APPROVED BY P-PCHABIB
NEA - MR DUBS
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN
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----- 047565 /43
O R 171759Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: A-4 SALES TO INDIA

1. PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR YAQUB-KHAN CALLED ON UNDER SECRETARY HABIB DECEMBER 15 TO EXPRESS THE GOP'S CONCERN ABOUT PRESS REPORTS OF A POSSIBLE SALE OF A-4S TO INDIA. THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT HE APPRECIATED THE EXPLANATIONS THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT BUT HE WANTED TO REITERATE HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN.

2. THE AMBASSADOR CLAIMED THAT A-4S WERE CLEARLY OFFENSIVE WEAPONS. THEY WOULD BE USED ON INDIA'S AIRCRAFT CARRIER AND HE ASKED RHETORICALLY AGAINST WHOM SUCH A MILITARY CAPABILITY COULD BE USED. THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT THE
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SALE OF A-4S TO INDIA WOULD ONLY WIDEN THE EXISTING IMBALANCE IN MILITARY STRENGTH IN SOUTH ASIA. HE NOTED THAT THE SALE OF AIRCRAFT TO INDIA WOULD BE IRONIC SINCE INDIA HAD PROTESTED AGAINST LAST YEAR'S LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO ON GROUNDS THAT THIS WOULD FUEL AN ARMS RACE. FINALLY, THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT PAKISTAN WAS AN

ALLY OF THE UNITED STATES AND AVERRED THAT AN EVENHANDED TREATMENT OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN IN ARMS SALES WOULD IN ITSELF BE AN INJUSTICE.

3. HABIB REPLIED THAT HE WOULD TAKE NOTE OF THE GOP'S CONCERN. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT IN FACT THERE HAD BEEN NO INDIAN REQUEST TO PURCHASE U.S. AIRCRAFT AND NO USG DECISION OTHER THAN TO PERMIT A COMPANY TO MAKE A ROUTINE UNCLASSIFIED SALES PRESENTATION. THE USG HAD NO REASON TO REFUSE SUCH A COMMERCIAL REQUEST.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE305916
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PWLANDE:CF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760465-0001
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761232/aaaabbio.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <21 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: A-4 SALES TO INDIA
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, IN, US, PK
To: ISLAMABAD NEW DELHI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006